

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

A Request for Continued Application (RCE) has been filed so that documents cited in an accompanying IDS can be properly considered by the Examiner. It is submitted that none of these documents, whether taken individually or in combination, affect the patentability of the pending claims.

The title has been amended to more clearly reflect the invention.

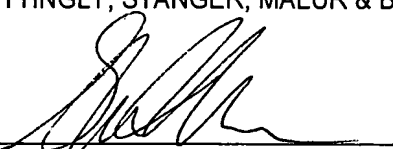
Applicants request acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document. The priority document (JP 2003-403970, filed December 3, 2003) was filed with the initial application on March 10, 2004 and is cited in the Official Filing Receipt mailed May 28, 2004.

It is submitted that another Notice of Allowance be issued as soon as possible. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

Examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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